

REMARKS

Applicants have carefully reviewed the Office Action mailed on August 27, 2008. Applicants respectfully traverse (and do not concede) all objections, rejections, adverse statements, and adverse assertions made by the Examiner. With this amendment, claims 40-50 are newly presented. No new matter is added. Please cancel claims 1-39 without prejudice. Claims 40-50 remain pending.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 1-4, 6-9, 20-23, and 34-37 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Tran et al. in U.S. Patent Application Pub. No. US 2002/0151955. Without conceding the merits of the rejection, please note that claims 1-4, 6-9, 20-23, and 34-37 are now cancelled without prejudice, rendering the rejection moot. Applicants reserve the right to pursue these claims or claims of a similar scope in the future.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 10-18, 24-26, 28-33, and 38-39 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Tran et al. in view of Gunderson et al. in U.S. Patent Application Pub. No. US 2002/0120321. Without conceding the merits of the rejection, please note that claims 10-18, 24-26, 28-33, and 38-39 are now cancelled without prejudice, rendering the rejection moot. Applicants reserve the right to pursue these claims or claims of a similar scope in the future.

Claims 5, 19, and 27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Tran et al. in view of Gunderson et al. as applied to claims 13-18, 24-26, 28-33, and 38-39 above and further in view of Deem et al. in U.S. Patent No. 6,231,597. Without conceding the merits of the rejection, please note that claims 5, 19, and 27 are now cancelled without prejudice, rendering the rejection moot. Applicants reserve the right to pursue these claims or claims of a similar scope in the future.

New Claims

Claims 40-50 are newly presented. Applicants respectfully submit that new claims 40-50 are patentable over the cited art and in condition for allowance.

Conclusion

Reexamination and reconsideration are requested. It is respectfully submitted that all pending claims are now in condition for allowance. Issuance of a Notice of Allowance in due course is also respectfully requested. If a telephone conference might be of assistance, please contact the undersigned attorney at (612) 677-9050.

Respectfully submitted,
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By their Attorney,

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